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The American Friends Peace Conference.

The general Peace Conference of American Friends held in Philadelphia the 12th, 13th and 14th of last month was one of remarkable character. It was, we believe, the largest conference on the subject of peace that has ever been held in this country. Before it closed nearly thirteen hundred persons had been enrolled as members, and the average attendance for the three days was from five to six hundred. Representatives came from nearly all parts of the United States where the Friends have organizations, even from as far west as Oregon and California. Canada was also represented.

The three branches of the Society, — Orthodox, Hicksite and Wilbur, — which include practically all the Friends on the continent, were represented in the membership and on the program. This is the first general joint conference of members of the different branches of the Society which has been held since the unfortunate separation which took place seventy-five years ago. The utmost harmony prevailed throughout the three days, not a single sign manifesting itself which indicated that those present held different theological tenets, except possibly certain denominational phraseologies spontaneously uttered. It was a peace meeting in more senses than one, and a fine illustration of the tendency of the time to greater harmony of religious bodies in many kinds of work.

One remarkable feature of the Conference was the representation from Friends' educational institutions. President Sharpless of Haverford College, President Thomas of Bryn Mawr, President Birdsall of Swarthmore, President Unthank of Wilmington College, Ohio, President Stanley of Friends University, Kansas, President McGrew of Pacific College, Oregon, were all present and took a prominent part in the proceedings. Penn College, Iowa, sent one of its professors with a paper; Whittier College, California, was represented by a paper from its president; and the historic Friends School at Providence, R. I., by one from its principal. Besides these, a number of professors from some of these institutions were in attendance, and did much toward making the Conference a success.

Many of the men and women most eminent among the Friends in various other lines of work were likewise present. Among these were John B. Garrett of Rosemont, Pa., James Wood of New York, Dr. Rufus M. Jones, editor of the *American Friend*, Howard M. Jenkins, editor of the *Friends Intelligencer*, Dr. O. E. Janney of Baltimore, Francis White, treasurer of Johns Hopkins University, Mrs. Bailey of the W. C. T. U. peace department, Philip C. Garrett of the United States Indian Commission, Joshua L. Bailly, president of the National Temperance Society, Isaac Clothier of the great house of Strawbridge and Clothier, Philadelphia, Dr. Richard H. Thomas of Bal-

timore, P. W. Raidabough of the Friends Publishing Association, Timothy B. Hussey of Maine, William G. Hubbard of Michigan, Ex-President Magill and others.

The papers presented were of an exceptionally high order. Three of twenty minutes in length were read at each of the nine sessions, and followed by discussions. Though the Friends all hold practically the same views on the subject of war, there was great variety in these papers. They covered nearly every phase of the question, religious, ethical, historical, social, economical, political. They were for the most part fresh and up to date, and remarkably free from the simple rehashing of traditional arguments.

Perhaps the subject which claimed most attention and was most strongly emphasized was the attitude which professing Christians ought to take, and so far have not generally taken, on the subject of war. The papers which moved the Conference most deeply dealt with this matter. Great interest was also shown in the historic development of peace thought and work, of arbitration and international association, since the time of the rise of the Society in the seventeenth century. The necessity of educating children to right ideas of war, patriotism, peace, respect for other nations, etc., was strongly urged in more than one paper. The power of women in peace work was ably presented.

The Declaration of the Conference, which was adopted with enthusiasm and practical unanimity, we give below. This Declaration makes it clear that the Friends have lost none of their conviction of the unchristian, iniquitous and irrational character of war, of their belief in the practical efficiency and sufficiency of the spiritual forces of truth, justice and love, and that they propose to continue their work on these lines, with increased intelligence and energy, and with a deeper faith in the ultimate triumph of the cause of human brotherhood and international fellowship for which they have always stood.

In view of this Conference, one is impelled to ask what great accomplishment might not be brought about in the way of peace if all the Christian bodies in the United States, or in the world, were to unite, with sincere conviction, in a great convention for the abolition of war. Alas, that it cannot be done! It isn't in them to do it. But when our common Christianity becomes really Christlike, this and a lot of other great things will be speedily done, for which the world sadly waits, and in behalf of which the Master still suffers.

Declaration of the Friends Peace Conference.

1. This Conference of members of the different bodies of Friends in America is convinced that lapse of time has not made necessary any change in the position which the Friends have always taken on the subject of war. Rather have reasons accumulated,

with the passing generations, for believing that war in all its forms is not only irreconcilable with the precepts, example and spirit of the Founder of Christianity, but that it is likewise out of harmony with the common principles of reason and morality, whose foundations are laid in the essential constitution of humanity. War, in its spirit, its deeds, the persistent animosities which it generates, the individual and social degeneration produced by it, is the antithesis of Christianity and the negation, for the time being, of the moral order of the world.

2. We believe that love, goodwill, self-sacrificing service, the faithful and courageous inculcation by teaching and example of truth and righteousness, are the divinely ordained means for the promotion of justice and right, for the eradication of error and iniquity, for the creation and maintenance of social and political order, and that the efficiency of these is not promoted but impaired by the instruments and methods of war.

3. We recognize with profound gratitude the progress toward the peace of the world that has been made in recent generations, in the elimination of certain forms of war, in the establishment of peace over wide areas of territory within the nations themselves, in the supplanting of brute violence by law, and in the progressive substitution of arbitration for war in the settlement of international controversies.

4. The establishment by the civilized powers of the Permanent International Court of Arbitration we gratefully recognize to be one of the greatest events in the history of human society. The setting up of this institution is the practical adoption, by the nations, of the principles and methods of settling controversies which have always been advocated by the Friends. The existence of this court makes it practicable and therefore morally obligatory hereafter to adjust in a pacific way all international controversies that may arise, and therefore takes away every ground that has been urged for considering war a necessity.

5. We deplore the fact that nations making high profession of Christian civilization are at present engaged in war with less civilized and enlightened peoples, and we believe that the time has fully come when the voice of enlightened humanity should make itself heard, calling for an adjustment of the matters at issue by the Christian methods which have in numerous instances of successful operation proved themselves as practicable as they are reasonable and humane.

In the spirit of our Master, the Prince of Peace, we call upon Christians of whatever name prayerfully to consider whether they are faithfully holding and advocating, as fully and earnestly as their profession demands, the great principles of love, brotherhood and peace, which lie at the very heart of our common Christianity, and the faithful maintenance and propa-

gation of which, by all who call themselves Christians, would, we firmly believe, speedily make all war impossible, and bring in the reign of permanent and universal peace.

Editorial Notes.

Pan-American Conference. The rumors that the Pan-American Conference was about to break up because of friction over the point whether arbitration should be made obligatory or voluntary have proven to be much exaggerated. There was a sort of crisis on one day (every conference has its crisis) produced by a speech of the delegate from Paraguay, supported by the Chilean representative, in favor of obligatory arbitration, apparently in criticism of the attitude of Chile. The reply of the Chilean delegate was a bit haughty, and this is what created the rumors. But the incident was closed the next day, and further friction is not likely to arise now that Chile and Argentina have reached an agreement to submit to the judgment of King Edward their boundary dispute, which had grown to be somewhat acute. The latest reports state that, though the disagreement between the representatives has not yet entirely subsided, the conference has practically agreed to accept the Hague Convention, including the Hague Court. This, as we have urged constantly, is the wise thing to do, and it will be a great accomplishment if the conference decides to take this course. The dispatches state that in addition to this a number of the South American republics, which desire something more than voluntary arbitration, will make a treaty pledging themselves in advance to submit to arbitration all controversies that may now exist or may hereafter arise among them. The other work of the conference has apparently produced no trouble, and is now well advanced. It is thought that the conference will continue its labors through January and possibly till the middle of March.

Cuba. The reputation of the United States for fidelity was never more at stake than just now in reference to Cuba. The island is soon to be "free and independent." It has just elected its first President. Its government will soon be in the hands of its own people. There is general agreement among all who know the facts that something akin to financial ruin threatens the island unless more favorable access for her products to our markets is given than our present tariff law affords. Under this law the chief products of the island have to pay about one hundred per cent. duty in our ports. This is practically prohibitive. Cuban sugar cannot, at this rate of duty, be marketed in this country without actual loss. It will therefore either have to perish at home or seek a market in some